

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

McKEARNEY et al

Serial No. Unknown

National Phase of: PCT/GB00/04149

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For: ACCESSING DATABASES

Atty. Ref.: 36-1558

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Examiner: J. L. N. 27/11.

\* \* \* \* \*

March 27, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Page 1, after the title insert the following:

~ This application is the US national phase of international application

A1 PCT/GB00/04149 filed October 27, 2000 which designated the U.S. ~

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

A2  
Cmt 4. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the selector is configured to select a preferred data service according to a pre-determined selection strategy.